REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

In the present amendment, the claims have been amended, as more specifically discussed below, to accept the substantive limitations of allowed claims. However, due to the nature of the claims, and to improve the U.S. form, the amendments are not verbatim inclusions of the base claim and intervening claims. However, it is submitted that the substantive recitations in each of the claims should render the claims allowable for the same reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in item 20 on page 8 of the Office Action. It is requested that the Examiner examine the amended claims and confirm the allowance thereof.

By the present amendment, claims 3-8, 12, 16, 17, 20-25, 29, 33 and 34 have been amended, and claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13-15, 18, 19, 26-28, 30-32, 35 and 36 have been canceled.

Claims 3-5 and 7 have been amended to include the substantive limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claim 12 has been amended to include the substantive limitations of claims 1, 2 and 9. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to include the substantive limitations of claim 1.

Claims 20, 21, 22 and 24 have been amended to include the substantive limitations of claims 18 and 19. Claim 29 has been amended to include the substantive limitations of claims 18, 19 and 26. Claims 33 and 34 have been amended to include the substantive limitations of claim 18.

In light of the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-8, 12, 16, 17, 20-25, 29, 33 and 34 set forth in item 20 on page 8 of the Office Action, it is submitted that claims 3-8, 12, 16, 17, 20-25, 29, 33 and 34 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The cancellation of claims in the present application is done without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Masako NINOMIYA et al. /Jeffrey R. Filipek/ By 2009.09.24 14:49:17 -04'00' Jeffrey R. Filipek Registration No. 41,471

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